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# TRAIL & LANDSCAPE



A Publication Concerned With  
Natural History and Conservation

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

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# TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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Bill Gummer

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## The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

*President*

E. Franklin Pope

**Objectives of the Club:** To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse the information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

**Club Publications:** THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada, and TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a quarterly providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on club activities.

**Field Trips, Lectures** and other natural history activities are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

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**Membership application, correspondence :**  
THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB  
Box 35069, Westgate P.O.  
Ottawa, Ontario K1Z 1A2

**Information:**  
(613) 722-3050  
*After 10 a.m.*

# TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

Published by  
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April-June 1994

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# The 115th Annual Business Meeting

*Dave Smythe and Bill Gummer*

The 115th Annual Business Meeting of the OFNC was held on Tuesday, January 11, 1994 in the auditorium of the Canadian Museum of Nature with 30 members attending. President Frank Pope chaired the meeting and Secretary Stephen Gawn recorded the proceedings.

Following the practice adopted last year, the Chairman asked members to spend the first half hour reviewing copies of the minutes of the 114th meeting and annual reports from the various committees. At 8:00 p.m., he called the meeting to order and the Secretary read the minutes of the 114th meeting. They were adopted with one minor correction.

The only business arising from the minutes was ratification of a revised Constitution, first introduced at last year's meeting. The Chairman reviewed the history of this before opening the meeting for discussion. At the time of last year's meeting, formal notification of the proposal for revision in CFN had not reached members one full month before the meeting, as required by Article 23 of the existing Constitution. The 114th meeting adopted the revision (with one change to Article 9) but recognizing that members should have full opportunity for review and comment, a motion was passed to consider further motions for changes submitted by June 30th; such motions to be put to the 115th Annual Business Meeting. One written comment was subsequently received, objecting to Article 17(c) on the grounds that it does not allow for sufficient review of all components of an extensive revision.

After discussion of the intention of Article 17(c) to facilitate approval when an extensive list of changes is proposed, the difficulties this may create when the list includes both major and minor changes, and the objection raised by one member concerning adequate review, the meeting ratified both Article 17(c) and the complete revised Constitution.

Treasurer Gillian Marston presented the Financial Report noting that Member's equity is \$191,940, approximately the same as last year.

The Chairman opened discussion of the Committee reports by asking representatives of each committee to respond to questions from the floor. Although

there were requests for clarification, there were no points of disagreement. Some of the highlights not previously in *Trail & Landscape* are reported here.

The Conservation Committee was active on 14 projects in the Ottawa area. The Education and Publicity Committee set up displays to promote OFNC at six events including the FON Conference, with the help of 70 volunteers, and supplied speakers/leaders for six presentations to groups outside of the Club. In addition to arranging for the regular monthly lectures, the Excursions and Lectures Committee organized 46 field trips including the long range trips to Algonquin and Point Pelee Parks.

The Fletcher Wildlife Garden Management Committee held an official opening ceremony for the model "Backyard Garden" in September to recognize the considerable progress that has been made. The Backyard Garden is now about 75% complete.

The Canadian Museum of Civilization has loaned a personal computer to the Macoun Field Club. The computer has been loaded with educational software and catalogues of the Macoun Club collections and library. Committee members active in the field have received first aid training.

As of November 1993, membership in the Club was 1041 in comparison with 1052 in 1992. Of these, 362 were family memberships. The local membership of the Club rose slightly after two years of decline. An honorary membership was conferred on Dr. George Ledingham of Regina. Our "Golden Anniversary" list grew by four names in 1994, as shown on page 31 of this issue.

Janet Gehr was again approved as Club Auditor.

Ron Bedford, Chairman of the Publications Committee, gave an interesting presentation on the publications of the Club, in particular, the long and distinguished history of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* and its predecessors.

Under new business, the President reported that he had attended the Governor General's Levee and was both surprised and pleased to learn that the Governor General was aware of the OFNC and its "good work". Ellaine Dickson made a plea for more outside leaders for the Macoun Field Club.



The meeting approved the slate of Council members and officers presented by the Nominating Committee, as follows:

<i>President</i>	Frank Pope (Executive)
<i>Vice-Presidents</i>	Michael Murphy (Computer Management) Dave Moore (Education & Publicity)
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Stephen Gawn
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Eileen Evans
<i>Treasurer</i>	Gillian Marston

#### *Council Members*

Ron Bedford (Publications)	*Carol German
Fenja Brodo	Bill Gummer
Lee Cairnie	Jeff Harrison (Fletcher Wildlife Garden)
Bill Cody	*Cendrine Huemer
Francis Cook	Mickey Narraway (Membership)
Ellaine Dickson	Jack Romanow (Birds)
Enid Frankton (Awards)	David Smythe
Colin Gaskell (Excursions & Lectures)	*Jane Topping (Conservation) Ken Young (Finance)

The names of new Council members are preceded by an asterisk, and links with committees are given in parentheses. Note also that we have succeeded in naming two Vice-Presidents this year. The Council lost only two members in 1993: Martha Camfield and Bruce Summers. Their service to the Club has been much appreciated.¤



*Along Moodie Drive*

*Bradley Ralph*

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# OFNC Committees for 1994

## *Bill Gummer*

As usual at the change of the year, the memberships of our active Committees have been brought up to date. The list, shown below, was accepted by the Council at its January 17th meeting.

The total list, with 95 positions in all, is smaller than last year, but this does not necessarily mean fewer people are involved. For instance, in programs developed for the Fletcher Wildlife Garden, and in the expanded efforts of the Education & Publicity Committee, many additional Club members are actively involved in the work set up by these Committees.

The 95 positions are filled by 79 different people; 11 are on two Committees, one on three and one on four. The total is very close to 10% of our local membership. It is interesting to see that all our Chairpersons are the same as last year; that is valuable continuity. Their names and home phone numbers lead the list of each Committee.

Of the 79 people, only seven are new this year, and two of them were actually active a few years ago, and so are "old-timers."

The Club is always glad to hear from members who are interested in the work of our Committees, and would like to become involved somehow in helping the Club to achieve its aims. Please make your interests known, either to a particular chair person, to a member of the Council, or through a friend.

## 1994 OFNC COMMITTEES

### AWARDS

Enid Frankton  
(596-1256)  
Bill Arthurs  
Dan Brunton  
Fran Goodspeed  
Isabelle Nicol

### BIRDS

Tony Beck (820-9165)  
Colin Bowen  
Jean Pierre Cheff  
Laurie Consaul  
Mark Gawn  
Stephen Gawn  
Cendrine Huemer

### BERNIE LADOUCEUR

Larry Neily  
Marianne Neily  
Daniel Perrier  
Bert Plimer (*Sec-Treas.*)  
Gord Pringle  
Jack Romanow  
Daniel St. Hilaire  
Bev Scott  
Michael Tate

### COMPUTER

MANAGEMENT  
Mike Murphy (727-1739)  
Suzanne Blain  
Alan German

### CONSERVATION

Jane Topping (1-924-2754)  
Lynne Bricker  
Christine Hanrahan  
Ian Huggett  
Beth MacNeil  
Mike Murphy  
Jim Reil  
Ewen Todd  
EDUCATION  
& PUBLICITY  
Dave Moore (729-9330)  
Lee Cairnie  
Betty Campbell  
Doug Crombie  
Don Davidson

#### 1994 OFNC COMMITTEES (CONTINUED)

##### EXCURSIONS &

##### LECTURES

Colin Gaskell (728-4582)

Robina Bennett

Ellaine Dickson

Eileen Evans

Carol German

Rick Leavens

Philip Martin

Catherine O'Keefe

Bruce Summers

##### EXECUTIVE

Frank Pope (829-1281)

Eileen Evans

Stephen Gawn

Gillian Marston

Dave Moore

Mike Murphy

##### FINANCE

Ken Young (231-6061)

Pierre Belisle

Don Davidson

Ron Bedford (*ex officio*)

Bill Cody (*ex officio*)

Gillian Marston (*ex officio*)

##### MACOUN FIELD CLUB

Rob Lee (225-3405)

Martha Camfield

Laurie Consaul

Stephen Darbyshire

Ellaine Dickson

Barbara Gaertner

David Manga

Joe Shepstone

Janice Traynor

Pat Whitridge

##### MEMBERSHIP

P.J. Mickey Narraway

(596-1677)

Barbara Campbell

Sandra Dashney

Eileen Evans

Alice Miller

Lee Nolan

Karen Richter

Dave Smythe

##### PUBLICATIONS

Ron Bedford (733-8826)

Fenja Brodo

Bill Cody

Francis Cook

Doreen Duchesne

Bill Gummer

Liz Morton

Isabelle Nicol

Joyce Reddoch

##### FLETCHER

##### WILDLIFE GARDEN

Jeff Harrison (730-5968)

\*Eileen Chivers

\*\*Tanya Ewanovich

Sandra Garland

Peter Hall

Christine Hanrahan

Mike Murphy

\*\*Desirée Salada

Ken Young (*Secretary*)

\* Landscape Ontario

\*\*Friends of the Farm  
representative



## Call for Volunteers

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club runs, as many organizations do, on the power of its volunteers. We know that out among the readership there are those who would like to help out the Club but are not able to make long term commitments to the cause. Well, here's your chance to help at a cost of no more than a few hours.

During the year, the Club sets up its display at various locations. The Education & Publicity Committee calls on volunteers to come out and sit for a few hours with the display and answer questions about the Club, hand out information and sell a few Club items.

To offer your services please contact our volunteer co-ordinator Lee Cairnie at 733-1561.□

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# Council Report

*Dave Smythe*

## Membership Database Guidelines

Council has reviewed past practice for use of the membership database and has adopted formal guidelines that reflect these practices. The database is essential in the administration of the Club's business and the work of its committees. It contains information from all members of the Club including name, address, fee status, membership category, volunteer information and whether or not the member chooses to receive *CFN* and *T & L*. Its security and integrity are the responsibility of the Membership Committee. The Committee tries to ensure that there are no errors in the database by checking and verifying information once it is entered. Members can help by always including their membership number (upper right hand corner of the address label) with a request for address change, and by returning the renewal notice form with payment of dues.

The guidelines permit certain routine uses of database information such as the preparation of mailing labels and the distribution of complete listings to the President, the person responsible for the Club phone, and the Treasurer's Assistant. With prior approval of Council, information from the database may also be given to Council members as "working aids" or to Club members who need it for Club projects.

## Shirley's Bay

Those of you who frequent Shirley's Bay or who travel along the Fourth Line and Riddell Drive will have noticed construction of new roads and fences on DND property. This is apparently in preparation for an expansion of military training activities on the site. This area is a major stopover point for migrating birds and is consequently one of the best in the region for birders. Increased military training will undoubtedly have some impact on the wildlife and therefore on the activities of OFNC members as well as the Ottawa Duck Club and the Ottawa Banding Group, all of which have a physical presence on DND property.

The OFNC has enjoyed access to the causeway and Haycock and Chartrand Islands under an agreement with DND which defines certain conditions of access. Frank Pope has been in touch with DND and has been assured that the Club will continue to have access to these areas but it is not yet clear what if any changes to the conditions of access may be necessary. Hopefully this information will be available for the next issue of *Trail & Landscape*. □

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# A Special Tribute to Bill Holland

*Jeff Harrison*



*Bill Holland and large shelf fungus, 1990.*

Bill Holland, a long time member of the OFNC, died of a heart attack in November, 1993, while carrying out his bird inventory at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden. In many ways it was the most appropriate way for him to go. Bill was a keen birder, a man always willing to give a helping hand, a great buddy of George McGee, and in his final years an unswerving supporter of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden.

William Arthur Holland was born in Woodville, a suburb of Bournemouth, England, in 1921. Bill developed his interest in birds from his father on their many walking trips about the Dorset countryside.

At the age of 17, after graduating from High School, Bill entered the Portsmouth Naval Academy. In his class was Philip Mountbatten, better known as Prince Philip, husband of Queen Elizabeth.

During his naval training Bill was sent to West Africa where the many colourful tropical birds rekindled his early interest. When the war started Bill joined the

British submarine service. Most of his early duty was spent off the east coast of Canada, protecting convoys and fighting German U-Boats.

In October, 1943, Bill was an instructor, first at HMCS St. Hycinthe and then at HMCS Stadacona. It was at St. Hycinthe that Bill met his future wife, Margaret. They were married in 1944 and later that year Bill returned to Britain. He left the service after the war and returned to Canada in 1946.

For twenty years Bill was employed as a travelling salesman selling coal to industrial clients, first in Montreal, and then based in Ottawa. During that period he and Margaret raised five children. With the decline of the coal business, Bill moved on to real estate in 1968, working first in the office of Teron Construction, and then Aselford Martin, before retiring a few years ago.

Bill's involvement with the Club started when the rigours of the life as a travelling salesman came to an end, and he had leisure time to watch and learn about Canadian birds. He originally met George McGee while birdwatching in Mer Bleue about 1964 and became a member of the OFNC in 1966.

After he joined the club, Bill went out regularly on the bird walks and was soon driving around some of the young birders like Monty Brigham, Ron Pittaway and Tom Hince. Monty fondly remembers an amiable companion and Bill's "ready smile, twinkling blue eyes, wavy hair and ruddy complexion".

Once Bill and George McGee started birding together in the mid-70's, they were inseparable. Margaret referred to the pair as the "Bobbsey Twins", George's wife, Doreen, described them as "The Odd Couple".

In a sense they were both right. George and Bill shared a positive outlook on life and a wry sense of humour. Whereas George was flamboyant and outgoing, Bill was the perfect foil, steady and reserved. Whatever the chemistry, it worked magic in their friendship and their field trips.

Bill and George led many Club bird outings together. They also took out the students from George's bird classes. With all they shared their love of birds, their birding expertise, and their sense of humour. Just a few years ago, Bill and George started the inventory of birds at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden.

After George's death, and Bill retired, Bill took over the inventory himself. It became his passion. Almost every morning he would be at the Garden listing the birds. When the Backyard Garden Certificate was developed, he dusted off his formidable sales skills, selling them to everyone he met. He quickly became the prime seller of Certificates, often manning our exhibit for ten hours at a stretch at events like the Ottawa Home Show. While Bill's contributions to the

Fletcher were enormous, it was his belief in the value of the project, his great sense of humour, and his constant presence at all our functions that spurred us all to work a little harder.

Bill was an active and effective member of Council (1968-1972) and Vice-President (1969-1970). He always sought a way for compromise, had only the best to say of anybody and was always ready to provide help where needed. He made the running of Club affairs a pleasurable activity for all concerned.

Bill will be fondly missed by everyone who knew him. The Fletcher Management Committee intends to commemorate his many contributions in the Garden he so dearly loved. Those who wish to, can make a donation on his behalf to the Garden through the Club address.¤

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## Signs

*Robert Nero*

Just now this morning  
outside my car at the office  
stopped in my tracks  
briefcase swinging  
by a male house sparrow  
chirping loudly, flirting its tail  
pleading for attention  
a rich, redolent, garnished  
passionate vocalization  
a spring song of joy.

---

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# Leitrim Albion Road Wetlands Update\*

*E. Franklin Pope*

[Letter sent to the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources, January 25, 1994]

The Honourable Howard Hampton  
Ontario Minister of Natural Resources  
Whitney Block—Queen's Park  
Toronto Ont. M7A 1W3

Dear Mr. Hampton,

I am writing to you as the President of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, which enjoys the distinction of being the oldest natural history club in Canada. Although we have an interest in policies and issues throughout the province, we take special care with matters affecting natural areas in Ottawa-Carleton. Having had an opportunity to speak with you at the June 1993 FON conference, I'm confident that you and I share a common interest in the protection of provincially-significant resources.

The Leitrim Wetland is undoubtedly a unique and a special place in the Ottawa Region as well as a provincially-significant wetland. The heart of a presettlement wetland complex, located in Gloucester southeast of the Ottawa International Airport, this wetland has miraculously survived three phases of progressively intensive drainage.

But now it is faced with another mortal threat, urban development. The planning history is rather irregular and has many twists and turns. I will attempt to briefly recapitulate the facts of the matter.

\*See *T&L* Vol. 24, No. 2, 1990; Vol. 26, No. 3, 1992; Vol. 27, No. 4, 1993 for previous articles on Leitrim Albion Road Wetlands.

When the Region of Ottawa-Carleton performed their 5-year review of their Official Plan in 1988 (and after the public review of the Draft Official Plan), Regional Council suddenly added the land parcel which contains more than a third of the Leitrim Wetland to the designated Urban Area of the local Municipality of Gloucester. This designation formed part of the Regional Official Plan that was approved by Regional Council in July 1988.

The next step required the “lower tier” municipality, Gloucester, to amend its Official Plan to conform to the “upper tier” Regional Official Plan. At the Public Meeting held to notify the public of this change, one of our members, respected botanist Albert Dugal, expressed his concern that it would affect a large wetland located in the newly designated “urban area.” However, his comments were not recorded by Gloucester Planning Department staff nor were his concerns reflected in the regional Planning Department’s report to Regional Council.

Mr. Dugal, having had no response through proper channels, apprised us of the situation and asked us to intervene. In September of 1989, we formally requested that the local office of your Ministry classify the Leitrim Wetland, also known as the Albion Road Wetland, under the province’s Wetlands Evaluation System.

The OMNR Carleton Place District Office of your Ministry acted on our request and soon announced in November 1989 that the wetland had been classified as “Class 1.” This rating was consistent with our expectations and so we believed that the process of correcting the planning documents for this area was to be relatively straightforward.

Since less than 20% of our Region’s presettlement wetlands remained and these are being lost at the rate of 3% per annum, we were confident that this new information about the biological richness of the Leitrim Wetland would make it a priority for conservation. Furthermore, the District Manager stated your Ministry’s intention to object to the urban designation that was the purpose of the Gloucester Official Plan Amendment.

Then, in January 1990, your Ministry suddenly and mysteriously withdrew this request for referral. By doing so, your Ministry was seen to have tacitly “approved” the urban development of the subject lands. In March 1990, when the Regional Planning Committee were deliberating on the matter, we and other groups and individuals protested against urban development in a provincially-significant wetland. Pro-development Regional Councillors argued that if the lands actually contained a provincially-significant wetland, the OMNR would not have withdrawn its objection. The Mayor of Gloucester went so far

as to state his opinion that the wetland was merely the consequence of flooding caused by beaver dams!

In June 1990, Regional Council approved the Official Plan Amendment # 23, and took the highly unusual step of denying our request (as well as those made by other groups and individuals) to appeal the matter to the Ontario Municipal Board. The Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) subsequently informed us that we had valid grounds for a judicial review of the denial of our rights of appeal, which are guaranteed under the Planning Act. However, without access to intervenor funding, our organization was in no position to initiate legal proceedings.

Since then, your Ministry's Carleton Place office has participated in efforts to protect the southern portion of the wetland and the trout fishery values of Findlay Creek. However, they have been unwilling to discuss protection of large areas of the north, including breeding habitat of the endangered Logger-head Shrike.

I call to your attention the fact that, until a Plan of Subdivision is approved by the City of Gloucester, and is further approved by the Regional Council and the Ministry of Municipal affairs, no final approvals will have been given.

It is our respectful submission that the 1992 Wetlands Policy of your Government clearly applies to the Leitrim Wetland and that you and your Ministry must not permit the urban development of the provincially-significant wetland. Thank you for your attention in this most urgent matter.

Sincerely yours,  
E. Franklin Pope  
President,  
The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club



Along Moodie Drive

Bradley Ralph

---

# Tetragnathid Spiders Mating

*Bruce Winterbon*

When I paddle an open boat in marshy places, I often pick up one or more tetragnathid spider hitchhikers. (When I paddle a yellow sea kayak, dragonflies often land on it; the green one attracts grasshoppers instead. Is there a research project there?) Tetragnathids are the common web-spinning spiders on grass and shrubs in wet places. If you go out on a boggy pond in the morning, probably all the webs you see silver in the sunlight around the pond edges were made by these spiders. They have long narrow bodies and very long legs, except the third pair of legs is short. The spider often hides by lying along a blade of grass, and the third pair of legs holds on while the other legs extend fore and aft.

I normally see only the spiders in the front of the boat. They usually start spinning a web between the front thwart and one or both gunwales forward of it, but they never get very far before the web is damaged by another bit of brush. One evening I had at least three of these spiders in my boat when suddenly two came together. I don't know if all our tetragnathids are of the same species, so I didn't know if these were two of the same or different species, duelling over who would own the bow of my boat or deciding who would eat and who be eaten; or conspecific male and female, mating. They were right at the bow, so I couldn't see what they were doing until I landed the boat and got out. They were mating.

As is usual in most animals, the male was the smaller of the pair. (We mammals are the odd ones out.) My books don't say anything about male and female being different colours, but in this pair the male was light brown, the female dark grey. The two spiders were face to face, with jaws locked together. Spider jaws have a muscular part, the chelicera, and a fang, on the end of the chelicera. Tetragnathids have long chelicerae for their size, and these were spread well apart. I had forgotten my hand lens that evening, so I couldn't see much detail; the books say that the male tetragnathid has spines on his chelicerae to hold the female's fangs safely out of commission; despite popular belief, most male spiders do survive mating.

Behind the jaws, the spider has a pair of pedipalps, leg-like appendages which are part of the mouth. In male spiders their tips are modified into copulatory organs. The male deposits a drop of semen on a piece of web, then sucks it into a cavity, like the bulb of a fountain pen, in the end of each palp. When he finds

a female, and successfully immobilizes her fangs, she bends her abdomen under his and he inserts the palps alternately (or, in some other families, both at once) into the genital slit in her abdomen. Tetragnathids mate on a thread of silk hanging from the web: this pair hung just below one gunwale, outside the boat. I could see the palp, with a swelling on the end of it, at least touching the female's abdomen, and he alternated palps two or three times.

Finally, too quickly to watch, he threw her away from him, then retreated a step or two as she fell on the rock beneath and disappeared. ☐

---

## Spring Command

*F.W.Grimm*

Sun wakes the greening ground  
small rustlings stir the land  
green mist veils hills  
edges of trees

Breezes shift mist-scents  
wet earth and hints  
of unseen blossoms  
far voices

Still evening carries  
distant conversations  
high migrant birds  
toads trill

Scattered beetles buzz  
bees gather drunk  
on old apples

As distant thunder murmurs.

Before this promise dies  
we must repair  
the shredded skies.

---

## Act Two

*Jack Holliday*

June 15, 1992. A nice summer day. My friend Peter Rubec and I chatted on his front lawn.



From the sugar maple tree arching overhead a large spider dropped slowly on an ever-lengthening silken strand. As I usually do, when a spider drops on its "life-line," I reached out and grasped that thread so that I could examine the spider closely. Most of the time, the alarmed spider will drop like a stone to the ground and scuttle quickly away before the descending foot squashes it flat. (Not my foot! I don't step on spiders, unless by accident.)

Not so this spider. It hung, almost motionless, and allowed me to bring it close to my eyes for a "good look."

Probably one of the orb-web weaving spiders, perhaps the "Cross Spider?" Perched on its globular abdomen was a tiny insect which at first I thought might be an aphid. Closer examination revealed a minute black wasp. One would think any flying insect would choose any place else to rest but the "back" of a spider.

She, the wasp, inserted her ovipositor into the spider's abdomen three or four times, as I watched. Apparently she had previously stung the spider in a vital area and the spider was semi-paralysed. After what I assumed was the insertion of eggs, the wasp walked to the rear abdomen where the spinnerets are located. She seemed to "chew" for a few seconds with her mandibles, perhaps disabling the spider's spinnerets? Then off she flew, leaving me with a dangling spider and a host of questions.

What happens next? Is the spider usually left hanging on its strand? Surely winds will break the strand and allow the corpse to fall to the ground? What will prevent the ever-present ants from dragging the spider "home" to be fed to their ant larvae? If so, are all the wasps' endeavours for naught?

And the biggest question of all. How in the world could such a life-style develop?

Distracted, I dropped the spider to the ground. I should have put it into a container, awaited to see the emerging wasps and perhaps have donated them to someone who studies such creatures. I'm sure few persons have witnessed these events. Perhaps the tiny wasp, even if known to science, has kept its prey and larval life a mystery, and still unrecorded.

It is always interesting to get a glimpse of one of the myriad dramas in the mysterious world of insects, even if one doesn't get to see Act One, nor the Finale.



**Editors Note:**

Dr. Lubomir Masner, who studies these tiny wasps at Agriculture Canada, says that the full story of this parasitic relationship is much more complicated. The wasp, so keenly observed by Jack Holiday, may well have been *Pediobius grunini*, a hyperparasite (Chalcidoidea). The female wasp probably inserted her long ovipositor and laid her eggs, not in the spider tissue, but in the primary parasite of the spider, a fly larva in the genus *Ogcodes*, family Acroceridae. So the spider had been already somewhat weakened by the time the wasp found it.

Much is still be learned about these parasites. Up until now, *Pediobius grunini* is only known from Kazakhstan and from the Czech Republic. Next time Jack, hold on to that spider! □



Along Moodie Drive

Bradley Ralph

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# The Chipmunk: A Facultative Predator

*James D. Georgiles*



*Eastern Chipmunk*

*Photo by Tony Beck*

We all love the friendly chipmunk and have watched it filling its cheek pouches with seeds and nuts, or gently nibbling at wild fruits and berries. Some of us with gardens have reason to complain of its depredations on our seedlings and soft fruits. But there is a sinister side to this apparently gentle creature, for it can be a predator red in tooth and claw.

One day while walking through Vincent Massey Park in Ottawa my wife and I observed, emerging from a clump of grass, a chipmunk with a violently struggling deer mouse dangling from its jaws. The chipmunk, which was grasping its hapless victim by its muzzle, ran across our path to a small boulder and leaped up on to its flat top. There to our surprise the chipmunk holding the mouse firmly between its forepaws began tearing ravenously at its head. The mouse's struggles soon subsided and the chipmunk settled down to the serious business of devouring its prey. Starting from the head it consumed the mouse piecemeal

until, after about 15 minutes, all that remained was the tail. The chipmunk then hopped down from the stone and nonchalantly approached us soliciting for hand-outs. We threw down a few shelled peanuts, some of which it ate daintily for dessert, then filling its cheek pouches with the remainder it left the scene of the mini-drama and disappeared into the underbrush.

Although we were aware that chipmunks will kill young nestling birds, this was the first time that either my wife or I had ever seen a chipmunk kill and devour live prey. We have since been informed that chipmunks have been seen catching frogs and biting off their hindlegs, which they then consumed. One person told me that he has frequently seen chipmunks emerge from their burrows in front of his cottage, carrying small mice by the muzzle. He was convinced that the mice had inadvertently intruded into the chipmunks' burrows, for in every instance observed by him, the chipmunks carried the offending mice to a respectful distance from their burrows, then released them to scamper away to safety. In no instance did the chipmunks kill or eat the mice.

Was our chipmunk an aberrant killer, who in removing mice from its burrows had acquired the taste for mice meat; or are chipmunks facultative predators? □

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## Fletcher Wildlife Garden Update

*Jeff Harrison*

The development of the Garden is proceeding under the direction of the Management Committee (Jeff Harrison) which includes the Chairs of our sub-committees: Education (Peter Hall), Financial Management (Ken Young), Inventories (Michael Murphy), and Fund-Raising and Promotion (currently Jeff Harrison). Some of our Habitat Managers sit on this committee as well. Robina Bennett organizes our planting and maintenance volunteers.



1993 has been another eventful year for the development of the Garden, with moments of great satisfaction and sadness. In March we lost the Environmental Partners Fund grant and consequently our co-ordinator, Elise Stevenson. Elise did a sterling job in assisting our formative development and she will be missed.

In June we received a \$5,000 grant from the Environmental Youth Corps and hired Tanya Ewanovich. Tanya worked until September providing daily ad-

ministrative support, and under the direction of our Education Committee, wrote an Interpretive Plan for the Garden. She also proved to be a great asset, and is continuing on as a volunteer.

During 1993 we continued to receive solid support from our partner, Peter Elliott and Friends of the Central Experimental Farm. The design competition for the Garden logo was completed, with the selection of the heron logo, and stationery was printed up. We also developed a portable exhibit and a brochure on the Backyard Garden, both for information and promotion.

We used our new brochure and exhibit to assist in selling Certificates for the development of the Backyard Garden. This initiative, suggested by Eileen Chivers of Landscape Ontario, has raised about \$7,000 to date.

We were all saddened by the death of Bill Holland in November. (Please see the Special Tribute to Bill, pages 38-40.) Bill was out at the Garden almost every day doing his bird inventory and he was the prime seller of the Certificates. We will never be able to replace Bill, his unflinching support will always be remembered. A fund has been set up to honour Bill. To date about \$400 has been donated. The Management Committee is looking into appropriate ways to remember him.

The Garden has been designed as a series of interconnected habitats. The main habitats are Model Backyard Garden, New Woodlot, Old Woodlot, Sedge Meadow, Butterfly Meadow, Hedgerow, and Amphibian Pond.

Currently we have managers for the Backyard Garden (Eileen Chivers), the Butterfly Meadow (Gillian Boyd) and the Old Woodlot (Sandra Garland). Habitat managers work to develop each individual habitat based on the landscape design of David Tomlinson. They are supported by local experts, our volunteers, and the Management Committee.

One of our key habitats is the Model Backyard Garden managed by Eileen Chivers of Landscape Ontario. This garden is about 75% complete and an official opening ceremony was held on September 12, 1993. The Memoranda of Understanding between Landscape Ontario and OFNC (Backyard Garden), and with Friends of the Farm, and between the OFNC and Friends, for the whole garden, were officially signed at that event. Signs to honour corporate donors sponsoring the Backyard Garden, the Sedge Meadow dam and the Hedgerow were also unveiled.

With concentration on the Backyard Garden in 1993, other planting in the garden proceeded at a slower pace. Some additional sedges and cattails were

planted in the Sedge Meadow, the Butterfly Meadow test plot has been enlarged to about one acre, and most of the Hedgerow has been planted.

In 1994 our ability to proceed with habitat development will depend on finding Habitat Managers to continue work on the New Woodlot, the Sedge Meadow and the Amphibian Pond. I would be pleased to talk to anyone interested in these positions. You do not have to be an expert. The key ingredients are an interest in learning about how species interact, the desire to create a new habitat, virtually from scratch, and the chance to interact with others who have made a commitment to change the ecological sterility of the urban landscape.

A formal submission was made to Agriculture Canada to secure Building #138 as our Interpretive Centre. Negotiations on terms of use and rental charges are expected to be completed in the spring of 1994. Christine Hanrahan has recently joined the Management Committee as Manager for Interpretive Centre development. She will examine the building and develop a plan for its use.

The Interpretive Centre is intended to provide information on wildlife gardening through advice, printed material, and guided and unguided tours. It may also serve as a centre for the interpretation of local natural history with appropriate exhibits. Opening of the Centre will also emphasize the need for making available to interested people the many Club-authored articles, mostly in *T&L*, on features of local natural history.\* It is hoped that the Centre may also provide a new permanent home for the OFNC. Our ability to proceed with building development will depend on our fund-raising efforts.

The Fund-raising and Promotion Committee convened its first meeting in October. It has produced a fund-raising package and will solicit grants to provide the bulk of the funding we need for major development in 1994 and subsequent years. In 1994 these include the hiring of a new co-ordinator, upgrading the Interpretive Centre, production of a self-guided trail brochure, trail formation, and the production of interpretive signage.

In addition to our need for Habitat Managers, and a Chair for our Fund-Raising and Promotion Committee, we also need people to work with the Management Committee to help co-ordinate our volunteer efforts in areas such as promotion, interpretation, and office administration. □

\*Publications Committee is listing significant review papers in *T&L*'s 27 volumes, and will assemble appropriate back issues.

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# Making a Butterfly Meadow

*Gillian Boyd*



*Photo by Gillian Boyd*

I first heard about the Fletcher Wildlife Garden project in April, 1992 at an information display at the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm building. Those attending were invited to volunteer for any particular areas of interest. Having made a wildflower bank and roadside garden in front of my house in previous years, I thought the butterfly meadow would be somewhat similar, through on a vastly larger scale.

We had our first meeting just over two weeks later, on 28 April. Peter and Judy Hall, Daphne Barrenger, Evelyn Palmer and Trix Gearey were my fellow enthusiasts. At that meeting we sowed seeds, donated by the Wildflower Society, in the pots and flats that we had brought, using a soilless mix provided by the Farm. This was not very successful, as germination was poor. We did get four Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), three Red Bergamot (*Monarda didyma*), nine Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) and one Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*). Unfortunately we lost the coneflowers to marauding squirrels digging in the flat.

Sometime in June, the designated area was ploughed and sown with alfalfa and red clover. After visiting the site in early July, it was very clear that we would have to dig out beds so that seedlings and transplants would not be over-

powered by the clovers or other fast-growing weeds. Accordingly, every Wednesday evening there were communal digging sessions for those who could come. For the most part there were three regulars. People also went over individually at other times. (Work started on 14 July and continued until the end of October.)

Gradually we cleared, dug and marked out beds five feet square, planting them as we went along. The soil for the most part was a wonderful rich clay loam and retained moisture well. The wet summer was ideal for transplanting, making watering less of a chore than it might have been. Even so, it was quite a task. We brought water with us in cans or screwtop containers. When we needed more, we used the pond above the dam. This was laborious and not ideal.

By the beginning of September we had made 20 beds in an area 80 feet by 30 feet. We left a control strip 12 feet by 30 feet. At the far end John Sankey practised the seeding and mowing techniques he had used in making his own backyard meadow.

As we went along, we, with the help of some kind friends, collected plants and seeds from gardens and wild areas, and extended the beds as they filled up. We finally arrived at the happy state of having filled up this part of the meadow. It was hard work but satisfying, and full of interest.

All of us were very keen to see the results of our endeavours and in 1993 we were agreeably surprised to find we had made a wildflower meadow full of variety and colour, humming with insects, growing vigorously and home to toads and ground hogs. Some new butterflies were also seen, including the Inornate Ringlet (*Coenonympha inornata*) and the Orange Sulphur (*Colias eurytheme*).

Fired by this success, it seemed a good idea to extend the meadow. The first site was a somewhat unnatural rectangular strip on one side of an area between two lots of trees and shrub plantings. Filling in the other side of this space would provide more balance. Accordingly, courtesy of the Arboretum staff, we started on a cleared curving area following the line of trees and shrubs on the east side. In 1993 conditions were less ideal. It was a very dry summer. This made the ground exceedingly hard to work. The soil on this side had more of the yellowish clay nearer the surface and it was more widespread. Collecting plants was also much tougher than in 1992, because of hard-baked ground which resisted fork, spade and, sometimes, even crowbar.

With two of our group unavailable, we were down to a core of two, with occasional help from the volunteer pool, and others. We started on 7 August, as soon as the ground was ready, and again continued until the end of October.

We followed the same methods, clearing beds, transplanting and seeding. (In all, 130 different species were collected and planted.) The extension was much larger and so the planting was less dense. We hope, nevertheless, that the results in 1994 will be effective.

It is encouraging to note that the City of Ottawa is supporting similar areas with its naturalization programmes in parks. The New Edinburgh pilot project is flourishing and hopefully others will follow.

Based on this "learning-by-doing," here are some suggestions for other meadow makers to consider.

—Preparing the site in advance by clearing and tilling in the fall and retilling in spring would eliminate the hard digging. Collecting plants and seeding could then start as soon as possible, giving the transplants the opportunity to establish themselves and, maybe, flower and seed themselves the same year.

—Collecting plants locally ensures that they are already adapted to the local climate. Good places to find them are waste ground and, especially, development sites. Rescuing plants, from future subdivisions is particularly satisfying, although returning too late to dig up something special is distressing. (I still mourn the Bottle Gentian [*Gentiana andrewsii*] and Foxglove Penstemon [*Penstemon digitalis*] that were lost to the bulldozers.)

—Listening carefully to weather forecasts and collecting and planting before anticipated rain provides natural watering which helps in lessening transplant shock.

—Soil is an important factor. We were lucky in having a clay base to hold any moisture. In fact the soil was so rich that all the plants grew bigger and more quickly than they would have in the wild. In poor, sandy soil there would be less variety and less impressive results.

Those who assisted with advice, labour or plants are too numerous to mention by name. Without their help the meadow would not have been so successful. My grateful thanks to all of them. Thanks also to all passersby who encouraged us and appreciated what we were doing. □

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#### BUTTERFLY GARDENING NETWORK

We would like to produce an information sheet for would-be "butterfly gardeners" to help in choosing suitable plants to attract butterflies. For this I need help from anybody who would take the trouble to record observations in their gardens or elsewhere.

Please make a note of what flowers you see the butterflies feeding on and when (time of day as well as date). The colour of the flower and the variety are particularly important. If you don't know the plant's scientific name, please give its common name and/or a description, as some common names apply to more than one plant. If you know the species of butterfly that would also be very helpful. Please send details (in legible form) to me: Gillian Boyd, 1032 Pinewood Crescent, Ottawa K2B 5Y5, or phone (613) 828-7886. □

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# Bring Back the Birds!

*Tanya Ewanovich*

The arrival of spring is synonymous with the arrival of birds and their joyful singing. It is possible to attract these harbingers of spring in your own backyard by landscaping for wildlife. Wildlife gardening is a gardening style that enhances wildlife habitat and provides some of the basic ingredients that wildlife needs to survive, such as water, food, shelter, and breeding space. To attract birds to your backyard, it is possible to provide one or several of these ingredients.

This article will focus on breeding space and in particular on artificial means for providing breeding space — bird boxes.

Breeding space is important for the survival of birds into the next century. Most birds tend to fall into one of two nesting categories: open top nesters, or cavity nesters. Open top nesters nest in trees, bushes, shrubs, and on the ground (generally in tall grass meadows). Providing for these species is as easy as growing the right type of plant.

Cavity nesters are decreasing in numbers due to the decline of old growth forests. Bird boxes are a handy and much needed alternative for cavity dwellers. Bird nesting boxes are also an environmentally friendly way of greening your area or property. It is an easy way to control insects and it is quite enjoyable to watch our feathered friends live in our community.

Shortly after their migration period in early spring, birds are looking for a place to start nesting. Bird nesting boxes encourage birds to stay in your area. As long as there is food and water nearby and you have taken the time to place the box in conditions that the birds will desire, you could have a family of birds shortly after you set up the nesting box.

The Y's Owl Co-op is a non-profit charitable organization working in conjunction with the Fletcher Wildlife Garden and the Friends of the Farm to bring to you pre-assembled bird boxes to foster the return of birds to Ottawa.

The Y's Owl Co-op was founded in 1980 by the Y's Men International/Canada Association to provide employment opportunities to adults with developmental disabilities. Individuals in the Y's Owl workshops are given the opportunity to learn mechanical assembly skills and to gain hands-on experience, both necessary to move into the competitive job market. Their most current project is the

**“Bring Back the Birds, Bird Box Program.” A “Green Idea” that we are all proud to be a part of.**

The reasons that nesting boxes are a “Green Idea” is that first of all, birds eat insects. This is a natural way of reducing the insect population without using pesticides. Second, this project also fits in with the research on pest management currently being done by Agriculture Canada at the Central Experimental Farm.

Third, nesting boxes are an artificial enhancement that can potentially increase the existing population of cavity nesters since their natural habitat is on the decline. The Fletcher Wildlife Garden has close to 50 nesting boxes (and bat roosting boxes) on the site. Due to this and other wildlife gardening practices, the bird population as well as the number of species found at the site has increased.

Fourth, Y's Owl also uses recycled wood. What is recycled wood you ask? Recycled wood is end cuts of lumber, disassembled wood pallets and other wood that has been rescued from land fill. So this is why it is truly an environmentally friendly project.

It is now possible, for a limited time, to obtain one of these specially manufactured boxes made for easy maintenance. They have not been painted since most birds are not attracted to bright colours. Natural is the best. A pole can also be purchased along with a bird box.

For each box or pole sold, a \$5.00 donation (\$2.00 from the poles) will go to enhancing the Fletcher Wildlife Garden from a bird's perspective. See Greenline for Order Forms. ☐



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**Y's OWL  
CO-OP**

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# Birders Wanted

*Cendrine Huemer*

Would you like to put your birding skills to good use?

The Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), organized by the Canadian Wildlife Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, is a spring roadside survey that was launched in Saskatchewan in 1966. With the help of hundreds of volunteers, it has grown slowly but surely and in 1992, over 310 routes were reported.

The survey was designed to measure long-term changes in numbers of breeding birds, and define areas in which population changes are occurring. In late May or June, surveyors follow an approximately 40 k route and take note of all birds seen or heard within 400 m in a three-minute period at stops located 800 m apart.

BBS is looking for volunteers in the Ottawa Region and across Canada. Not only would you be contributing to the knowledge desperately needed to establish reliable bird conservation measures, but best of all your commitment would encourage you to go birding. You might discover a new area and find a special warbler, or a Henslow's Sparrow. You can even bring a friend, or share the route among a group. If you need help finding a birder with whom to share your route, contact the Club's Birds Committee (820-9165). Or should you feel that you are not quite masterful enough, you might tag along as an apprentice to a more experienced birder already doing a route and needing an assistant.

By taking on a route, you would contribute to an exceptional source of information on bird population trends. If you have the time to keep consistent, reliable data, and plan to keep the same route for several years, please contact the BBS provincial co-ordinator for Ontario: Barb Charlton, Long Point Bird Observatory, Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario, N0E 1M0. □

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## Any Articles for *Trail & Landscape*?

Have you been on an interesting field trip or made some unusual observations recently? Is there a colony of rare plants or a nesting site that needs protection? Write up your thoughts and send them to *Trail & Landscape*. If you have access to an IBM or IBM-compatible computer using 5.25 or 3.5 inch diskettes, all the better. If you don't, we will happily receive submissions in any form—typed, written, printed or painted!

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# Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions & Lectures Committee

For further information,  
call the Club number (722-3050) after 10 a.m.

*Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.*

**ALL OUTINGS:** Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and the activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool.

**REGISTERED BUS TRIPS:** Make your reservation for Club bus excursions by sending a cheque or money order (payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to E.M. Dickson, 2037 Honeywell Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 0P7, at least ten days in advance. Include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the outing. Your cooperation is appreciated by the Committee so that we do not have to wait to the last moment to decide whether a trip should be cancelled due to low registration. We also wish to discourage the actual payment of bus fees on the day of the event.

**EVENTS AT THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE:** The Club is grateful to the Museum for their cooperation and thanks the Museum for the use of these excellent facilities. Club members must be prepared to show their membership cards to gain access for Club functions after regular museum hours. There is a charge for parking in the museum lot.

**BIRD STATUS LINE:** Phone 761-1967. The service is run by Larry Neily. Club members (and non-members) may call to learn up-to-date news on birding potential in the Ottawa district. (See *T&L* Vol. 22, No. 3, page 123.)

*Le Club des Ornithologues de l'Outaouais has a similar service, in French, run by Daniel St. Hilaire. The Club number is 776-3822 and the Bird Status Line is 778-0737.*

Sunday  
10 April  
6:30 a.m.  
to  
6:30 p.m.



**BUS EXCURSION: SPRING BIRDING AT PRESQU'ILE**  
Leaders: Colin Gaskell and Jack Romanow  
Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, south east corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.  
Cost: \$20.00 (PLEASE REGISTER EARLY... see Registered Bus Trips at the beginning of COMING EVENTS for details).

This popular spring tradition will focus on the large flocks of waterfowl that gather in the waters surrounding this provincial park prior to resuming their northward migration.

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>OFNC MONTHLY MEETING</b>
<b>12 April</b>	<b>OTTAWA VALLEY SPRING</b>
<b>8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Speakers: Sheila and Harry Thomson</b>
	<b>Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.</b>
	<b>Experience spring in the Valley, with Sheila and Harry (illustrated by Harry's superb slides). Come early to get a good seat.</b>

**Sunday**  
**24 April**  
**6:30 a.m.**  
 to  
**6:30 p.m.**



**BUS EXCURSION:**  
**HAWKS ALOFT AT DERBY HILL, N.Y.**  
**Leaders: Bob Bracken and Bernie Ladouceur**  
**Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, southeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.**  
**Cost: \$25.00 (PLEASE REGISTER EARLY...see Registered Bus Trips at the beginning of COMING EVENTS for details).**  
 When weather conditions are favourable, the spectacle of the thousands of hawks migrating over Derby Hill is an amazing phenomenon well worth the bus ride. Please bring proof of citizenship for entry into the United States. Optical equipment in "new" condition should be registered with Canada Customs in advance of the trip. The trip will be cancelled on the day before if the weather forecast for the eastern end of Lake Ontario is particularly unfavourable. You will be notified of any change of plan.

**Friday**  
**29 April**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**OFNC SOIRÉE WINE AND CHEESE PARTY AND ANNUAL AWARDS**  
**Meet: Unitarian Church Hall, 30 Cleary Street**  
 See centrefold in previous issue for further details.

**Saturday  
30 April  
and  
Sunday  
1 May**

**EXCURSION: SPRUCE GROUSE IN ALGONQUIN PARK**

**Leader: Stewart Macdonald**

This trip will be a repeat of last spring's highly successful event. Stewart has an established reputation as an expert on grouse behaviour. The group will witness one of the most spectacular rites of courtship display performed in the northern woods — that of the Spruce Grouse. The aggressive calls of the female birds and the dazzling flutter flights choreographed by the strutting males are highlights of this woodland ballet. Spruce Grouse are renowned for their tameness. The males respond readily to tape recordings of female calls and afford wonderful photographic opportunities. Moose and Gray Jays will also be encountered on this outing.

Participants will leave Ottawa at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday and arrive at the new Visitor Centre for lunch. Overnight accommodation will be at the Algonquin Parkway Motor Inn in Whitney and the group will return to Ottawa by early Sunday evening. The approximate cost per person will be \$30.00 for accommodation (based on double occupancy) plus meals and the shared cost of transportation by participants' cars. This excursion will be limited to 14 members so register before April 22nd by telephoning the Club number (722-3050 after 10:00 a.m.). Full details of the itinerary will be provided to registrants in the week prior to the trip.

**BIRD WALKS FOR BEGINNERS**

The following series of walks (3 or 4 hours duration) is offered for novice birders during the month of May.

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Leader</b>
May 7	7:30 a.m.	Britannia*	Colin Gaskell
May 14	7:30 a.m.	Britannia*	Don Davidson
May 21	7:30 a.m.	Britannia*	Jim Harris

\*Entrance to the Britannia Filtration Plant; Bus #18 stops here.

## MAY EVENING STROLLS

These four informal walks are offered to expand members' general knowledge of local natural history. Children are most welcome on these outings. Bring waterproof footwear and insect repellent.

**Wednesday BRITANNIA CONSERVATION AREA**

**4 May Leader: David Moore**

**6:30 p.m. Meet: Gates of Britannia Filtration Plant**

**Wednesday FLETCHER WILDLIFE GARDEN**

**11 May Leader: Jeff Harrison**

**6:30 p.m. Meet: Baseball field at the Garden**

**Tuesday N.Y. CENTRAL RIGHT-OF-WAY**

**17 May Leaders: Trudy and Ron Bedford**

**6:30 p.m. Meet: Elmvale Shopping Centre, N.E. corner**

**of the parking lot, St. Laurent Blvd. and Smyth Road.**

**Wednesday STONY SWAMP TRAIL NO. 5**

**25 May Leader: Bill Gummer**

**6:30 p.m. Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria N.E. corner of parking lot,  
Richmond Road at Assaly Road.**

**Sunday SPRING WILDFLOWERS**

**8 May Leader: Philip Martin**

**9:00 a.m. Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, N.E. corner of the parking  
lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.**

**Come out and enjoy a spring morning looking for  
wildflowers. Bring a snack.**

**Tuesday OFNC MONTHLY MEETING**

**10 May SONGBIRD DECLINES – ARE THEY REALLY  
HAPPENING?**

**Speaker: Dr. Erica Dunn, Canadian Wildlife Service  
Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe  
and McLeod Streets.**

**Press reports tell us that 70% or more of bird species are  
declining and tropical deforestation is considered to be one  
culprit. Is the "river of migration" we look forward to each  
May in danger of being reduced to a trickle? Come and hear  
a balanced view from a bird survey scientist with the  
Canadian Wildlife Service and enjoy an interesting slide  
show that ranges from politics to population systems, and  
from cowbirds to chaos.**

<b>Sunday 15 May 9:30 a.m.</b>	<p><b>GENERAL OUTING TO THE GINS' FARM IN CANTLEY</b>  <b>Leaders: Ann and Jim Ginns</b>  <b>Meet: Front entrance of the Supreme Court Building, Wellington Street at Kent.</b>  This is a general walk to see whatever birds, flowers, etc. are present. Bring a lunch, binoculars and your favourite field books.</p>
<b>Monday 16 May 7:30 a.m.</b>	<p><b>WARBLERS IN THE CITY</b>  <b>Meet: Entrance to the Britannia Filtration Plant, at the east end of Cassels St. (Bus No.18 stops here).</b>  The Monday Morning Birding Group invites you to join them at Britannia Conservation Area, one of the Capital's premier birding sites. Mud Lake and the surrounding area offer a wide diversity of habitat, and with spring migration well under way, many different species will be observed.</p>
<b>Saturday 28 May 7:30 a.m.</b>	<p><b>BIRDING AT MORRIS ISLAND</b>  <b>Leaders: Ray Holland and Colin Gaskell</b>  <b>Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, 3090 Carling Avenue.</b>  The Morris Island Conservation Area is located along the Ottawa River just west of Fitzroy Harbour. Several forest habitats and ponds are accessible from a number of woodland trails on an abandoned railway bed. Pack a lunch to enjoy after a productive morning of birding.</p>
<b>Sunday 29 May 8:30 a.m.</b>	<p><b>ELPHINS AND DUSKY WINGS – BUTTERFLIES OF THE CONSTANCE BAY SANDHILLS AND THE CARP RIDGE</b>  <b>Leader: Bob Bracken</b>  <b>Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, N.E. corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.</b>  This will be a full-day quest for certain specialized species located in specific habitats at this time of year. Bob will explain the intricate relationship between various plant species and communities and the life cycles of different Lepidoptera. Bring a lunch, comfortable footwear and insect repellent (but not too much!).</p>

**Wednesday** **MIDWEEK OUTING TO MARY STUART'S PROPERTY**  
**1 June** Leader: Mary Stuart  
**9:00 a.m.** Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, N.E. corner of the Parking lot Richmond Road at Assaly Road.  
At the old farm near Pakenham we should see Pink Lady's-slipper, Fringed Polygala, Lousewort, many other interesting plants and many birds. We will make a few stops at points of interest along the way. Bring a lunch, something to drink (there is no drinking water available), waterproof footwear, insect repellent and binoculars. A hat is recommended. Call Mary the day before at 820-5520 for last-minute instructions.

**Saturday** **DAWN CHORUS AT THE RICHMOND FEN**  
**4 June** Leader: Monty Brigham  
**4:30 a.m.** Meet: Tim Horton Donuts, south side of Robertson Road (i.e., Old Hwy. 7) between the Richmond Road turnoff and Moodie Drive in Bells Corners.  
A splendid opportunity to see and hear interesting species of birds that breed in the wetland fen and the peripheral woodlands with an expert in the realm of nature recording. Waterproof footwear and insect repellent are absolutely essential for this outing. Be prepared for a lengthy walk along the railway tracks.

**Sunday** **THE BLUEBIRDS OF LANARK COUNTY**  
**5 June** Leader: Carson Thompson  
**8:00 a.m.** Meet: Sears, Carlingwood, Shopping Centre, south side, Carling Ave. at Woodroffe Ave.  
Participants will drive to the Perth Wildlife Preserve to be met by Carson Thompson who manages the property on behalf of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. The group will proceed along an established bluebird trail to the Mills Lake area in the vicinity of Mica Mines. This area has an active herony, osprey nest and beaver lodges as well as some interesting plant life. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy in picturesque Lanark County.

**Tuesday**  
**7 June**  
**7:30 p.m.**

### **FERN IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP**

**Leader:** Bill Arthurs

**Meet:** Activity Room 2, Canadian Museum of Nature  
Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

A workshop on the fascinating lifestyles of the ferns in preparation for the field trip scheduled for Sunday June 12th. The use of identification keys, microscopic examination of spores and spore cases (*Sporangia*), and preparation methods will be covered. Also to be discussed will be species suitable for growing in your garden.

**Sunday**  
**12 June**  
**1:00 p.m.**

### **FERN IDENTIFICATION FIELD TRIP**

**Leader:** Bill Arthurs

**Meet:** Elmvale Shopping Centre, N.E. corner of the parking lot, St. Laurent Blvd. and Smyth Road.

This will be a half-day outing in the Mer Bleue Conservation Area to find and identify the ferns studied on Tuesday at the fern identification workshop.

**Tuesday**  
**14 June**  
**8:00 p.m.**

### **OFNC MONTHLY MEETING PROTECTING CANADA'S NORTHERN AREAS**

**Speaker:** Bruce Rigby

**Meet:** Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets

The recent creation of the Territory of Nunavut, a vast area representing  $\frac{1}{5}$  of the Canadian land mass, has strengthened the need to develop cooperative management structures with the Inuit to preserve the integrity of important bioregions in the North. Bruce Rigby is the District Superintendent for National Parks in the Eastern Arctic and is directly involved in the development of national park initiatives and the corresponding management strategies. Three outstanding National Parks, North Baffin, Ellesmere Island and Auyuittuq will be featured as examples of this challenge. The presentation will be complemented with slides depicting significant aspects of Arctic flora and fauna.

**RESCHEDULED FROM MARCH 8th.**

**Friday**  
**24 June**  
**to**  
**Saturday**  
**9 July**



### **NEWFOUNDLAND BY COACH**

Leaders: Monty Brigham and Tony Beck

Coordinator: Carol Lynch

Cost (approximate): \$1,500.00 based on 25 participants (maximum 31). Firm cost pending rate confirmations (some meals not included in price).

Transportation: By Carleton Bus Line, 45 seater coach with washroom and climate control (lots of room and comfort). See Jan. - Mar. 1994 (Volume 28 #1) for itinerary. There are still a few seats left. Acceptance is on a "first come-first serve" basis.

**TO REGISTER, CALL THE CLUB NUMBER (722-3050 after 10:00 a.m.).**

**Sunday**  
**26 June**  
**10:00 a.m.**

### **VISIT TO THE PURDON FEN CONSERVATION AREA**

Leader: Catherine O'Keefe

Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, N.E. corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.

If you are not already familiar with Purdon Fen, this is a good opportunity to see what is probably the largest colony of Showy Lady's-slipper Orchids (*Cypripedium reginae*) in Canada. In addition to these beautiful orchids, we should also see the Leafy White Bog Orchid, Pitcher Plant and many other wildflowers. Bring a lunch for this long half-day outing.

**Saturday**  
**9 July**  
**10:00 a.m.**

### **WETLAND BUTTERFLIES**

Leader: Bob Bracken and Ray Holland

Meet: Britannia Drive-in Theatre, 3090 Carling Avenue.

This all-day outing will visit several selected wetland habitats west of the city. Sedge Skippers, Hairstreaks and Coppers will be encountered as well as some of the more elusive wetland butterflies such as the Baltimore and the Harvester. Bring a lunch, suitable footwear and a butterfly net if you have one. ☐

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**DEADLINE:** Material intended for the July-September 1994 issue must be in the editor's hands by May 1, 1994. Mail your manuscripts to:

Fenja Brodo

Editor, *Trail & Landscape*

28 Benson Street

Nepean, Ontario, K2E 5J5

H: (613)723-2054; Fax: (613) 990-6451.

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